Cooperation with neighbouring countries to meet power demand

676. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether having failed to resolve power crisis domestically, Government have approached its neighbours for help in power supply;

(b) whether private sector has failed to provide sufficient and uninterrupted power supply in various States for the last several years;

(c) if so, whether Government have approached the South Asian Nations, such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal to cooperate to meet energy demand;

(d) whether any agreements have been reached with these countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) to what extent these countries have provided energy to meet India's power requirement?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the National Electricity Policy, public sector investments will have to be stepped up to meet the investment requirement of the power sector expansion, along with increasing the private sector investments. The Policy has objective of meeting of power demand fully by year 2012.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) At present India purchases power from Chukha and Kurichu Hydroelectric Projects of Bhutan with a total installed capacity of 396 MW. The import of power would increase when the 1020 MW Tala Hydroelectric Project is operational. There is a standing arrangement for exchange of power with Nepal.